



TOWN OF AMENIA

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PLANNING BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Norm Fontaine
Tony Robustelli
Peter Clair
Nathan Roy
John Stefanopoulos

ABSENT: Erich McEnroe
Bill Kroger

The Planning Board Meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

Pedro Torres introduced Doug Bechtel, Executive Director of Audubon International to the Board. Silo is partnering with Audubon International and is going to be implementing Audubon's program because even golf courses can become valuable habitat. Mr. Bechtel began by giving the Board his background then went into his presentation. (See attached)

Juan Torres continued Silo has developed a Natural Management Plan with Audubon International and in addition they have also developed a Natural Habitat Plan in conjunction with Dr. Michael Klemens and two other PhD's which also talks about buffers and the same ideals. Those plans will become part of the HOA documents. There will be outside compliance to the program.

Ms. Shoumatoff questioned the Board since there has been some area of concern of this new developer coming with Discovery group, will Audubon keep their eyes open for any new developments. Mr. Bechtel answered that Silo has met all the requirements along the steps that Audubon International requires.

Pedro Torres stated that Silo has been meeting with the Town's Consultants and reviewed the answers to their comments. One focus is the southern Estate Homes and Estate Homes in general. We have been working with the consultants to create guidelines for these homes. They have spoken with Ms. Mangarillo regarding the green infrastructure, given the site constraints of that area, the owner will need to choose from a listing and they need a minimum. For example it

could be a water cistern, impervious driveway, green roof, etc. The SWPPP will take care of the water quality and water run-off volume to meet the East of Hudson Standards.

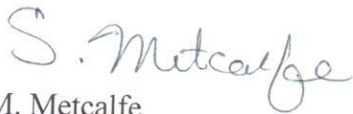
Sharon Kroeger passed out a comment letter to the Board and the Applicant.

Mr. Torres continued they are targeting January 8th for submittal; the consultants will have two weeks to review all the plans and get back to any comments. Hopefully Silo will do a presentation to the Town on January 14th at the Planning Board meeting. This will include all the plans, all the revisions, answering all the public comments and addressing all the consultant comments in one presentation. Chairman Fontaine added there should be a final submission as far as the comments go. Mr. Torres stated there was one comment regarding the fence for wildlife around the pools. Silo feels this should be recommended not enforced.

Mr. Torres asked if they should provide meeting minutes with the Town's Consultants to be distributed to the Board. Chairman Fontaine felt this would be helpful. They will be emailed to Ms. Delango.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING was made by Tony Robustelli, seconded by Peter Clair

Respectfully submitted,



Susan M. Metcalfe
Planning Board Secretary Alternate

The foregoing represents unapproved minutes of the Planning Board meeting held on December 18, 2014 and are not to be construed as the final minutes until so approved.

☒ Approved as read
☐ Approved with: deletions, corrections or additions

Our Core Beliefs

- The healthy functioning of our planet's ecosystems—our air, water, and land, and the vast diversity of life on Earth—is *worth preserving*.
- There are places on Earth where human activity should be limited.
- Maintaining healthy and functioning ecosystems begins at the local level with policies and practices that protect watersheds, promote biodiversity, and sustain natural resources.
- Not only must people take steps to minimize negative impacts to the environment in human-dominated areas of the world, but also strive to enhance the health and functioning of ecosystems where we live.
- Finding a sustainable balance among environmental, economic, and social systems is key to sustaining the quality of life for all of Earth's inhabitants. Our human communities can and must be balanced within the limits of the natural world.
- By becoming good stewards of the environment, people and organizations can help to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them.
- Scientific information, in conjunction with public participation, should be used to guide the planning, design, development, and management of human communities.
- While laws, rules, and regulatory approaches have been, and can be, important tools for protecting and enhancing our natural environment (ecosystems), voluntary efforts are an effective and essential means to protect and enhance the natural environment as well.
- Effective collaboration and partnerships among nonprofits, governments, businesses, and the public can lead to better environmental decision-making and can improve the quality of our human and natural communities.



Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Dispelling Common Myths

There are a number of "myths" and misconceptions that we hear from time to time about the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf. The following information dispels these myths and answers questions you may have about the program.



ACSP for Golf members are often pleased to find that many of their current practices count toward certification.

"I like that the program is realistic in its approach and sets achievable goals. Golf courses are not required to make significant and expensive changes to their infrastructure in order to become certified. Any course can do it simply by altering their approach to property management."

Darin Hull, Environmental Management Coordinator
The Glencoe Golf & Country Club | Calgary, AB

Myth #1: Being in the ACSP for Golf is too difficult.

Although our program possesses the necessary rigor to make an environmental impact, the process is not difficult. In fact, you may already be taking actions that can lead to certification. The key is to take each step one at a time rather than letting yourself becoming overwhelmed by the entire task. Start by focusing on the Site Assessment and Environmental Plan and tackle the other program elements at your own pace.

Myth #2: We don't have the staff, money, or time.

Any existing golf course can join ACSP for Golf and work toward earning the Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation. A course does not need to cover a large amount of acreage or contain a lot of habitat area to get certified—it just needs to practice good environmental management, and we are here to help! Certified golf courses range from small nine-hole facilities and lower budget public courses to country clubs, high end resorts, and PGA facilities.

Myth #3: An environmentally-friendly golf course is a brown golf course.

We understand that in order to have a playable course, chemicals will need to be used. Instead of requiring you to stop these practices outright, we look to help you manage a playable course with as little chemical input as possible. Working on certification in the ACSP for Golf can help you reduce the amount of chemicals needed and reduce the adverse environmental impact from their use and application (i.e. runoff and water quality). Fifty-two members of the ACSP for Golf and Audubon International Signature Program were ranked among America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses by Golf Digest in 2009. The list's top ten included six ACSP for Golf participants, two of which were certified.

"The absolute beauty of the ACSP is that everybody wins. First and foremost, the environment and land are protected and enhanced to maximize wildlife and to provide a sanctuary for not only for wildlife, but also for people."

Eric Niemur, Director of Grounds
Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center | Plymouth, MI

Myth #4: Certification materials must be perfect and sent in all at once.

The ACSP for Golf is not a test, nor will you be graded. Instead, we work with you to find ways to meet certification guidelines based on the unique strengths and weaknesses of your site. We're here to help you, not create roadblocks.

"This is not just some philanthropic activity. It's good business. We conserve fuel, we conserve electricity, and we have made this a part of our risk management system."

Ken Giedd, Former Director of Golf
Kingsmill Resort | Williamsburg, VA

Myth #5: Our golf course policies will prevent us from being certified.

We know that some of the practices we would like to see on a golf course may not be applicable or feasible in every situation, especially in the Outreach and Education category. This is why the ACSP for Golf is a flexible program. If you have any concerns about suggested or required projects, please call us to discuss your limitations.



Pine Valley Golf Club, named the number one golf course in the world by Golf Digest in 2014, is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

Myth #6: We will never be able to afford the new equipment needed to get certified.

As mentioned earlier, you are likely already doing many of the things required to be certified. It is unlikely you will need to make large investments in new equipment or technology to meet our standards. Again, please call us if you have any concerns about suggested or required projects.

Myth #7: My golfers will never accept the changes I would need to make.

We have heard many success stories of superintendents and assistants who have educated their golfers and membership about ACSP for Golf and have gained widespread buy in and support. Once golfers understand why certain

steps are being taken (i.e. grass is kept higher around ponds and streams to buffer chemical runoff), they are likely to embrace these changes. This is why Outreach and Education is an important part of the certification process. An Audubon International survey found that golfer satisfaction had either improved (66%) or been maintained (34%) since their course joined the ACSP for Golf.

"The entire process of pursuing certification helped unite our membership behind a worthwhile endeavor. It seemed to uplift our spirit of community, which was beneficial in countless ways."

Robert Haley, Audubon Committee Chair
Creek Course at Hammock Dunes | Palm Coast, FL

If you have any additional questions, please let us know. Our staff is available to provide information and guidance to help you implement environmental projects and achieve certification.

518-767-9051 | acsp@auduboninternational.org | www.auduboninternational.org



The Right Thing to Do

Marriott Golf challenges its superintendents with Environmental Sustainability Performance Award Program

BY LAWRENCE AYLWARD
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

David Robinson considers himself an environmentally minded superintendent, noting that the first golf course he worked on out of college was an eco-friendly one.

"It was the science and challenge of golf maintenance that pulled me into the business," says Robinson, Marriott Golf's senior director of golf grounds and a certified golf course superintendent.

"Certainly, the environmental side of the business has helped shape my career."

That part of Robinson's career is still evolving. Recently, Marriott Golf and Robinson rolled out the Environmental Sustainability Award Program (ESPA), an initiative designed to serve as a benchmark for environmental stewardship across the company's worldwide golf portfolio. As part of the program, 60 Marriott golf courses at 44 resorts in 13 countries are working to meet the program's criteria, with each facility receiving an ESPA commendation signifying their commitment to environmental leadership.

"This program is the next step in Marriott Golf's companywide commitment to environmental sustainability," Robinson says. "The main reason we do these things is because it's

the right thing to do; we want our courses to be environmentally friendly."

Marriott Golf was the first resort golf operator to mandate every property in its portfolio to become a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. In order to achieve Audubon certification, a golf facility is required to demonstrate that it's maintaining the highest degree of environmental quality in many areas, including environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation and water quality management.

Criteria for the ESPAs include:

- ▶ completing implementation of Audubon certification;
- ▶ implementing a water-conservation strategy;
- ▶ implementing a carbon footprint plan; and
- ▶ undergoing an evaluation of nearly 100 key conservation standards.

Upon completion of the four criteria, each property will receive an ESPA commendation from Marriott Golf, designating it as a certified sustainable facility.

Marriott Golf isn't doing this to be a pied piper in the golf and sustainability movement, Robinson says.

"But we know that we're visible, and we know people are looking at what we're doing," he explains. "If it gets other golf courses to begin implementing environmental programs, that's a great thing."

Each Marriott superintendent will develop a written natural resources management plan specific to their golf course, which will identify best practices and key metrics for reducing irrigation water consumption. Courses will also complete an irrigation audit by a certified golf irrigation auditor.

David Robinson is leading Marriott golf courses to their next step in sustainability.

PHOTO BY: LAWRENCE AYLWARD



"Water use is the biggest issue we have in our industry," Robinson says. "We want to see all our courses use the least amount of water that they can."

As part of the carbon footprinting plan, courses will complete Syngenta's EcoMeasures Tool, with the goal of reducing the year-over-year carbon footprint.

"We're still in the infancy stage with this," Robinson notes. "It will probably be a continuing learning process."

The evaluation of key conservation standards is part of the Marriott Golf Conservation Scorecard. A property will need to

"If someone goes to a Marriott hotel in Orlando or a Marriott in Hong Kong, that person knows what to expect. We approach our golf courses the same way."

— DAVID ROBINSON

achieve a predetermined percentage of the standards to complete this section, and an annual recertification and update will be required.

Another reason the ESPA was introduced was to ensure consistency across all Marriott golf courses. As a hotel company, Marriott has always been about providing consistency, Robinson says.

"If someone goes to a Marriott hotel in Orlando or a Marriott in Hong Kong, that person knows what to expect," Robinson says. "We approach our golf courses the same way; they are all working toward the same goal."

Some assume that it costs money to be eco-friendly, which is not the intention of sustainability in general, and it's certainly not the case with the ESPA.

"We're not pumping much money into this," Robinson says.

He notes that Marriott markets the fact that its courses are environmentally friendly, which has helped garner business and motivated superintendents to embrace sustainability even more.

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Environment & Money

We help you save *both*.

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